

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are currently pending in the present application, with Claim 1 being amended, and new Claims 6 and 7 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended and as added, are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Korg D8 Digital Recording Studio (a copy of the Owner's Manual is hereby submitted. Applicants note that the publication does not indicate on its face an exact date of the publication; nevertheless, in an abundance of caution Applicants are submitting the publication to satisfy any duty of disclosure to the extent it exists with respect to this particular publication).

The present invention, as recited in Claim 1, is directed to a recording/reproducing mixer that includes a designator for designating a listening mode. When the listening mode is designated, the output controller plays back the audio signals read from a storage medium directly (i.e., bypassing the mixing device of the mixer). When the listening mode is not designated, however, the audio signals are played back after the read audio signals are processed via the mixing device, which effects one of equalizing, volume adjustment, or effects addition to the audio signal.

Korg does not contain any disclosure or suggestions of a designator for designating a listening mode as described above. Rather, Korg simply teaches playback of the prerecorded sound, or the playback of one track while recording another track. There is no teaching of a designator for designating a listening mode as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-5 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Korg.

New Claims 6 and 7 are added to claim additional embodiments of the present invention, and are submitted as in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5587 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032027100.

Dated: October 6, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 8 has been amended as shown in the annotated sheet showing changes; a replacement sheet is also attached.

Specifically, Fig. 8 has been amended to correct the positioning of the terms “monitor out” so as to avoid overlapping with the circuit diagram.